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Connecticut

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Connecticut. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™

The Family History Library has many of the records described in this outline. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. You can use these numbers to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers™.

The library's major holdings of Connecticut records include vital, church, census, cemetery, probate, land, newspaper, military, family, and local history records. We are continuing to acquire additional records.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG™

The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog found at the library and at each Family History Center™. To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog for:

- The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:

UNITED STATES - CENSUS
CONNECTICUT - PROBATE RECORDS
CONNECTICUT, FAIRFIELD - CEMETERIES
CONNECTICUT, FAIRFIELD, WILTON - VITAL RECORDS

- The *record type* you want to search, such as:

UNITED STATES - CENSUS
CONNECTICUT - PROBATE RECORDS
CONNECTICUT, FAIRFIELD - CEMETERIES
CONNECTICUT, FAIRFIELD, WILTON - VITAL RECORDS

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The following archives, libraries, and societies have major collections or services helpful to genealogical researchers.

- Connecticut State Library
231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
Telephone: 860-566-4301
Fax: 860-566-8940

A helpful inventory of this library is Connecticut State Library, *Guide to Archives in the Connecticut State Library*, 3rd ed. (Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut State Library, 1981; FHL book 974.6 A1 No. 30).

- National Archives—Northeast Region (Boston)
380 Trapelo Rd.
Waltham, MA 02154
Telephone: 617-647-8100
Fax: 617-647-8460

- Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.
P.O. Box 435
2106 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033-0435
Telephone: 860-569-0002

- Connecticut Historical Society
1 Elizabeth Street
Hartford, CT 06105
Telephone: 860-236-5621
Fax: 860-236-2664

- New England Historic Genealogical Society
101 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02116-3007
Telephone: 617-536-5740
Fax: 617-536-7307

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- Stamford Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 249
Stamford, CT 06904

A useful guide to the records of Connecticut is Connecticut Temporary Examiner of Public Records, *Report of the Temporary Examiner of Public Records* (Hartford Conn.: Case, Lockwood and Brainard, 1904). The library has reports for 1904, 1912, 1922, and 1930 (FHL book 974.6 A3c; 1930 on film 164615).

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive e-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Connecticut in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- USGenWeb
<http://www.usgenweb.com/>
A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.
- Roots-L
<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/>
A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

FamilySearch®

The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch®. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

Computers with FamilySearch do *not* have access to computer on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. However, those services are available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

BIBLE RECORDS

The Connecticut State Library has collected, copied, and indexed over 25,000 Bible records. Some are bound in a set of 26 volumes while others are filed alphabetically by surname in file cabinets. The index was microfilmed in 1949 and is at the Family History Library (films 002875-82).

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains Bible records from Connecticut. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. These DAR Bible records are partially indexed by E. Kay Kirkham, *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States*, vol. II. (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984; FHL book 973 D22kk v.2; fiche 6089184).

BIOGRAPHY

Employees of the Stamford Public Library System are indexing biographical material from local histories for the Connecticut Biography and Portrait Index. Currently, there are more than 150,000 entries. It can be searched for a nominal fee by writing to: Turn of River Branch Library, 752 High Ridge Rd., Stamford, CT 06905.

The best collection of biographical works is at the Connecticut Historical Society. The Family History Library also has a fine collection. Representative biographical encyclopedias for Connecticut include:

Hart, Samuel, et al. *Encyclopedia of Connecticut Biography*. 11 vols. Boston: American Historical Society, ca. 1917-23. (FHL book 974.6 D3e vols. 1-2, 4, 7-11; films 1425622—.)

Genealogical and Biographical Records of American Citizens: Connecticut. 26 vols. Hartford: N.p., 1929-49 (not available at Family History Library).

CEMETERIES

The *Charles R. Hale Collection* of cemetery inscriptions (1640s-1930s) and newspaper death notices (1796-1865) is at the Connecticut State Library and on microfilm at the Family History Library (on 360 FHL films beginning with 003076). It consists of an extensive card index and 59 typed volumes of inscriptions, arranged by town, from more than 2,000 cemeteries. Additional description of this collection is in the "Vital Records" section of this outline.

The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of cemeteries in Connecticut are listed in Kemp's *Connecticut Researcher's Handbook* (see the "For Further Reading" section of this outline). This book also lists the number, volume, and page citations for each cemetery included within the Hale collection.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection also contains tombstone inscriptions from Connecticut cemeteries. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline.

CENSUS

Federal

Federal census records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more detailed information regarding these records.

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses of Connecticut from 1790 to 1920. The 1890 census was destroyed.

The library has book, film, and microfiche indexes of the 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, and 1860 censuses. The Connecticut State Library and the Family History Library also have an index to the entire 1790 to 1850 censuses (listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - CENSUS - INDEXES). The page numbers of this index do not always match those on microfilms at the National Archives and the Family History Library. A soundex (phonetic) index is available for part of the 1880 census and all of the 1900 and 1920 censuses.

Mortality schedules exist for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. The schedules are at the Connecticut State Library and the Family History Library (FHL films 234536-37).

The Connecticut State Library also has a special military census taken in 1917.

Colonial

A reconstructed census of over 2,300 heads of families recorded in tax lists and other records is Jay Mack Holbrook, *Connecticut 1670 Census* (Oxford, Massachusetts: Holbrook Research Institute, 1977; FHL book 974.6 X2h 1670).

CHURCH RECORDS

The Congregational Church was predominant in early Connecticut and was the state church until 1818. Other prominent churches in the state are the Methodist and Episcopal churches (colonial period), and the Roman Catholic and Baptist churches (19th century).

More than 600 churches have deposited their records with the Connecticut State Library. Most of these records are on microfilm at the Family History Library. Some of these records are indexed in a card index prepared by the Connecticut State Library. This index was microfilmed in 1949 (FHL films

0002806-74). A useful guide to this collection is *List of Church Records in the Connecticut State Library* (Hartford: Connecticut State Library, 1976; FHL book 974.6 A1 no. 14; film 1033856 item 9).

To learn about church records existing in 1942, see *Guide to Vital Statistics in the Church Records of Connecticut* (New Haven, Connecticut: Connecticut Historical Records Survey, 1942; FHL book 974.6 K23g; film 924002 item 2; fiche 6051300).

The Family History Library has an extensive microfilm collection of records of the Baptist, Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist, and Methodist Episcopal churches. Published histories are available for denominations such as Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Latter-day Saint (Mormon), and Universalist.

Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located.

Baptist

American Baptist - Samuel Colgate Historical Library
1106 South Goodman Street
Rochester, NY 14620-2532
Telephone: 716-473-1740
Fax: 716-473-1740

Congregational

Connecticut Historical Society
1 Elizabeth Street
Hartford, CT 06105
Telephone: 860-236-5621
Fax: 860-236-2664

The Congregational Library
14 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108-3704
Telephone: 617-523-0470
Fax: 617-523-0491

Episcopal

Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut
135 Asylum Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105-2295
Telephone: 860-233-4481
Fax: 860-523-1410

Methodist

United Methodist Archives Center
Drew University Library
P.O. box 127
Madison, NJ 07940
Telephone: 201-408-3189
Fax: 201-408-3909

Roman Catholic

Diocese of Norwich
201 Broadway P.O. Box 587
Norwich, CT 06360
Telephone: 860-887-9294
Fax: 860-886-1670

Diocese of Hartford
134 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, CT 06103
Telephone: 860-541-6491
Fax: 860-541-6309

An example of several published church records is Frederic W. Bailey, *Early Connecticut Marriages as Found on Ancient Church Records Prior to 1800*, 7 vols. (New Haven: Bureau of American Ancestry for Family Research, 1896-1906; FHL book 974.6 K2bf; film 924061 item 3.)

COURT RECORDS

Major Connecticut courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

- 1636-1784 **General Court** (General Assembly after 1637) was the highest state court throughout the colonial era. It handled many criminal and civil cases. After 1750 it relinquished most of its judicial responsibilities. Many of the General Assembly records were published in *The Public Records of The Colony of Connecticut (1636-1776)*, 15 vols. (Hartford, Conn.: Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1850-1890; FHL book 974.6 N2c; films 908423—; fiche 6051120). This is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - PUBLIC RECORDS.
- 1630s-1961 **Town and borough courts** had jurisdiction over civil matters in towns. **Justice of the peace courts** (1686-1961) handled similar matters in areas without a town court. Many of these records are at the Connecticut State Library. These courts were succeeded by **circuit courts**.
- 1638-1711 **Particular Court** was the primary court of jurisdiction for all matters of law, including appeals from town courts. This was succeeded by the **Court of Assistants** (1665-1711). The published records of this court are in the *Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut* (described above).
- 1666-1855 **County courts** had jurisdiction over civil disputes and minor criminal cases as well as chancery and divorce matters. From 1855-1870 this court's duties were taken over by the town and justice courts and the Superior Court.

1711- **Superior Court** replaced the Court of pres. Assistants and holds countywide sessions as the principal trial court for major civil and criminal cases.

1869- **Courts of common pleas** replaced county pres. courts and were reorganized in 1975 to include the circuit court.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of a few Connecticut court records. Many remain in the various court offices. The major repository for the records listed above is the Connecticut State Library. A guide to their court record holdings is *Records of the Judicial Department (Part A): Court Records in the Connecticut State Library, 1636-1945*, revised, unpublished inventory (Hartford: Connecticut State Library, 1977; not available at Family History Library).

For more information concerning Connecticut court records, see the *Guide to Archives in the Connecticut State Library* (see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline). Also see Dwight Loomis and Joseph Gilbert Calhoun, *Judicial and Civil History of Connecticut* (Boston: Boston History Co., 1895; not available at Family History Library).

DIRECTORIES

The Connecticut State Library, New Haven Historical Society, New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Library of Congress, and the American Antiquarian Society have useful collections of city directories.

The Family History Library has directories of major cities in Connecticut. Two examples of the library's holdings are:

- Hartford
1799-1860 FHL fiche 6043938-76
1861-1935 FHL film 1376910—
1915, 1917, etc. FHL book 974.62 E4p
- New Haven
1840-1861 FHL fiche 6044225-45
1861-1935 FHL film 1377137—
1901, 1938, etc. FHL book 974.67 ES4p

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

People

Colonial settlers of Connecticut generally came from Great Britain and neighboring New England states. Descendants of these early settlers later scattered throughout northern New England, upstate New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Texas.

Many Irish and German immigrants began coming in the late 1840s. French-Canadian immigration began after the Civil War and continued through the rest of

the nineteenth century. Late in the century most immigrants came from the southern and eastern countries of Europe, including Italy, Hungary, Poland, and Russia.

The Records

The major port of entry to New England is Boston. The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists for Boston for 1820 to March 1874 and 1883 to 1935 (listed in the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS, SUFFOLK, BOSTON - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION). The following indexes are also available:

- 1820-1874. These years are indexed in the *Supplemental Index . . . Atlantic and Gulf Coast Ports . . .* (listed in the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION - INDEXES).
- 1848-1891, 1902-1906, 1906-1920, and book indexes 1899-1940 (listed in the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS, SUFFOLK, BOSTON - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION).

The Massachusetts State Archives also has Boston passenger lists for 1848 to 1874 and 1883 to 1891. This includes records for the nine years missing from the National Archives records. The 1848 to 1891 index (above) is an index to the state lists but can also be used for the National Archives records.

Incomplete 19th century passenger lists for Bridgeport, 1870 (FHL film 830231), Fairfield, 1820 to 1821 (FHL film 830232), Hartford, 1837 (830234), New Haven, 1820 to 1873 (FHL film 830235), New London, 1820 to 1847 (FHL film 830236), and Saybrook, 1820 (FHL film 830246) are available at the Family History Library and the National Archives. These are found in Copies of Lists of Passengers Arriving at Miscellaneous Ports . . . *Atlantic and Gulf Coasts . . .* listed in the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION. For indexes to these lists, see *Supplemental Index to Passenger Lists . . . Atlantic and Gulf Coast Ports . . .* listed in the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION - INDEXES.

Also consult passenger lists of other New England ports and for ports in Canada. Records of Canadian border entries from 1895 to 1954 are on 937 films at the Family History Library (beginning with FHL films 1472801—). These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Names of colonial immigrants listed in published sources are indexed in P. William Filby, *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*, 15 vols. (Detroit: Gale Research, 1981-; FHL book 973 W32p). The first three volumes are a combined alphabetical index published in 1981. Supplemental volumes and cumulative indexes have been published.

More detailed information on U.S. immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline*.

Records and books on ethnic groups, such as African-Americans, French-Canadians, Jews, and Swedes are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - MINORITIES.

GAZETTEERS

Several helpful gazetteers of Connecticut have been published. Two of these are:

Gannett, Henry. *A Geographic Dictionary of Connecticut and Rhode Island*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1894. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978. (FHL book 974 E5g; fiche 6046786.)

Hughes, Arthur H. and Allen S. Morse. *Connecticut Place Names*. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society, 1976. (FHL book 974.6 E2h.)

GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person.

Manuscript Collections

The Family History Library has copies of significant sources such as the Frank T. Calef and other collections of Mayflower and Puritan descendants, the Charles D. Parkhurst manuscripts for New London, and compiled genealogies for early families in Fairfield, Hartford, New Haven, and other areas.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection consists of transcripts of Bible records, cemetery records, church records, marriages, deaths, obituaries, and wills. It was microfilmed in 1970 and 1971 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and is on 24 microfilms at the Family History Library (beginning with FHL film 844451). The collection is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - COLLECTED WORKS.

The New England Historic Genealogical Society has many important manuscript collections. The society's card catalog is on microfilm at the Family History Library (FHL films 544065-77; 543525-30; 543567).

Published Sources

Connecticut Society of Genealogists. *Ancestry Service*. 10 vols. Glastonbury, Conn.: Connecticut Society of Genealogists, ca. 1979-84. (FHL book 974.6 D2ca.) As of 1997, volumes listing surnames A-S have been published. The ancestor charts, 1962-1990, and ancestry service, 1962-1988, have been microfilmed (on 59 FHL films beginning with 1754015 item 2).

Cutter, William Richard, et al. *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut*. . . . 4 vols. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1911. (FHL book 974.6 D2c; film 1000146.) An index to this and other New England publications by Cutter is Norma Olin Ireland and Winifred Irving, *Cutter Index: A Consolidated Index of Cutter's Nine Genealogy Series* (Fallbrook, Calif.: Ireland Indexing Service, 1977; FHL book 974 D2ci; film 1036507 item 6; fiche 6046737).

Greenlaw, William Prescott. *The Greenlaw Index of the New England Historic Genealogical Society*. 2 vols. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1979. (FHL book Q 974 D22g.) This is an index to many local histories and genealogies published between 1900 and about 1940.

Hinman, Royal Ralph. *A Catalogue of the Names of the First Puritan Settlers of the Colony of Connecticut*. . . . 1846. 2d. ed. 1852-56. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1968. (FHL book 974.6 D2hra 1968; 1856 ed. is on film 186114.) The second edition includes surnames A-Danielson only. The 1846 edition contained surnames for the full alphabet (FHL film 908908 item 2.)

New England Historic Genealogical Society. *English Origins of New England Families: from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. First Series, 3 vols., 1984. Second Series, 3 vols., 1985. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. (FHL book 974 D2e; fiche 6047919-21; second series book 974 D2en; fiche 6047922-24.)

New England Historic Genealogical Society. *Genealogies of Connecticut Families from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. 3 vols. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983. (FHL book 974.6 D2g.)

Rider, Fremont, ed. *American Genealogical-Biographical Index*. Vols. 1-186. Middletown, Conn.: The Godfrey Memorial Library, 1952-. (FHL book 973 D22ag.) This is a continuing series. As of 1997, surnames A-Walker have been indexed. An earlier version in 48 volumes was published as *The American Genealogical Index*, 1942-51. (FHL book 973 D22am; films 1425577-86.)

Savage, James. *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*. . . . 4 vols. 1860-62. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1965. (FHL book 974 D2s; films 496426 item 3 to 496428.)

HISTORY

The following important events in the history of Connecticut affected political jurisdictions, family movements, and record keeping:

- 1633- Puritans from Massachusetts established
- 1636 settlements on the Connecticut River at Windsor, Wethersfield, and Hartford.
- 1638 The New Haven colony was established. New London was founded soon after.
- 1662 A British royal charter established Connecticut as a colony separate from Massachusetts.
- 1740 By this date all of present-day Connecticut had been settled and organized into incorporated towns, the basic governing units.
- 1786- Connecticut relinquished its claims to
- 1800 western lands, except for the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania which Connecticut claimed until 1799, and the Western Reserve in Ohio which it claimed until 1800. Connecticut settlers remained in both areas.
- 1788 Connecticut ratified the Constitution to become a state.
- 1840s As the factory system developed, thousands of foreign laborers began moving into Connecticut.
- 1861- Connecticut furnished 60,000 troops to the
- 1865 Union Army during the Civil War.

In addition to the sources mentioned in the "For Further Reading" section, an especially helpful source for studying the history of Connecticut is Charles W. Burpee, *The Story of Connecticut*, 4 vols. (New York: American Historical Co., 1939; FHL book 974.6 H2b).

LAND AND PROPERTY

Land in colonial Connecticut was granted by the Connecticut General Court. Most of these grants were to proprietors. Proprietors' records are at the Connecticut State Archives or at the town halls. Later deeds, mortgages, releases, and other related documents were recorded by the town clerk and are at the town halls. Most are indexed by grantor and grantee. There is no statewide index.

The Family History Library and the Connecticut State Library have microfilm copies of many proprietors' and town records from the earliest years to the mid or late 1800s. Some are as recent as the 1900s. They are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under the name of the town. From Hartford, for example, the library has 42 microfilms of proprietors' records (1639-88), deeds (1685-1851), and general indexes (1639-1865).

MAPS

The Connecticut State Library, Connecticut Historical Society, Yale University, and Wesleyan University have major map collections. The Family History Library has Connecticut maps for 1790, 1810, 1823, 1838, 1857, 1862, 1878, 1884, and 1917 (FHL film 002083). The library also has Hartford and New Haven city ward maps dating from 1850 to 1899 (FHL film 1377700; fiche 6016650-54 Hartford, 6016688-94 New Haven).

MILITARY RECORDS

The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information on the federal records.

An important source of military records is the Connecticut State Library. Their records include extensive militia records, orderly books, private papers, and other military records from the colonial period to World War I. Many of these are also at the Family History Library.

Colonial Wars (1675-1775)

Selected papers of the wars between 1675 and 1775 have been filed at the Connecticut State Library. Microfilm copies are at the Family History Library. The index is on FHL film 003590. For rolls of Connecticut men in the French and Indian War, see *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, vols. 9 and 10 (Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society, 1905; FHL book 974.6 B4c; films 897070 item 3 and 897071). This is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - HISTORY.

Revolutionary War (1775-1783) to Mexican War (1846-1848)

A major published source is Connecticut Adjutant General, *Records of Service of Connecticut Men in the I. War of the Revolution, II. War of 1812, III.*

Mexican War (Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1889; FHL book 974.6 M2ca; film 1036328 item 4; fiche 6046698).

Supplementary sources for the Revolutionary War are volumes 8 and 12 of *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society* (FHL book 974.6 B4c; volume 8 is on FHL film 897070 item 2; volume 12 is on film 897072). These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - HISTORY.

The Connecticut State Library and the Family History Library have a 37-volume set of service rolls for the Revolutionary War on microfilm. Indexes to service records of each war between 1775 and 1848 are at the Family History Library. The pension files for the Revolutionary War are also at the National Archives and the Family History Library.

Civil War (1861-1865)

An index to compiled military service records is at the National Archives and the Family History Library (FHL films 821909-25). The service and pension records have not been microfilmed and are only at the National Archives. A published roster is *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion* (Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1889; FHL book 974.6 M2c; film 982124). Item 2 on film 982124 is a supplement on film 982124.

Spanish-American War (1898)

A helpful source is Connecticut Adjutant General, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps of the United States in the Spanish-American War* (Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1919; FHL book Q 974.6 M2co; film 1036755).

World War I (1917-1918)

World War I draft registration cards for men ages 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Connecticut, see:

United States. Selective Service System.

Connecticut World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987-1988. (On FHL films beginning with 1561876.)

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county,

within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities.

Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map, see:

United States. Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives. (FHL film 1498803.)

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization records were filed in the city courts, superior courts, and the courts of common pleas. Many pre-1906 records are indexed and located at the Connecticut State Library. Some are in the county courts.

The National Archives—Northeast Region (Boston) has some local court records for New Haven County, and the cities of Ansonia, Hartford, and Meriden. It also has applications filed in U.S. circuit and district courts from about 1842 to 1955.

New England naturalization records for 1791 to 1906 were copied and indexed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the late 1930s. Some of the records are more recent than 1906. The index gives the name and location of the court, the date of naturalization, and the volume and page number (or certificate number) of the naturalization record. The copies and index are at the National Archives—Northeast Region (Boston). The National Archives in Washington, D.C. and the Family History Library have microfilm copies of the index 1791-1906 (FHL films 1429671-787).

For records after 1906, contact the National Archives—Northeast Region (Boston) or the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

NEWSPAPERS

Marriage and death notices published in Connecticut newspapers for the period 1796 to 1865 have been indexed in the Charles R. Hale Collection, described in the "Cemeteries" section of this outline (FHL film 003076-398).

The *Hartford Times* published a genealogical queries section at various times from 1901 to 1967. Indexes to surnames and copies of clippings for some years are at the Family History Library (on 9 FHL films beginning with 1421780). This is listed in the

Family History Library Catalog under
CONNECTICUT - GENEALOGY.

PERIODICALS

The major periodicals and magazines helpful for Connecticut research are:

The American Genealogist. 1939-. Published by David L. Greene, P.O. Box 398, Demorest, GA 30535-0398. (FHL book 973 B25aga.)

Connecticut Ancestry (formerly: *Stamford Genealogical Society Bulletin*). 1958-. Published by Stamford Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 249, Stamford, CT 06904-0249. (FHL book 974.6 B2s.)

Connecticut Maple Leaf. 1983-. Published by the French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut, P.O. Box 929, Tolland, CT 06084-0928. (FHL book 974.6 F25c.) This is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - MINORITIES.

The Connecticut Nutmegger. 1968-. Published by Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc., P.O. Box 435, 175 Maple St., Glastonbury, CT 06033-0435. (FHL book 974.6 B2n.)

The New England Historical and Genealogical Register. 1847-. Published by the Society, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116. (FHL book 974 B2ne.) The book has cumulative indexes to 1994.

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records in Connecticut are kept by probate district courts. In many cases a probate district consisted of a larger community and several nearby smaller towns. Sometimes a probate district crossed county boundaries. The *Connecticut Researcher's Handbook* describes each district (see the "For Further Reading" section of this outline).

The Connecticut State Library has numerous files of wills, bonds, letters, and other probate documents. The Family History Library has most of the pre-1880 packets arranged by district and then by surname on 1,622 microfilms. These packets can include wills, codicils, bonds, applications and petitions, inventories, court orders, court returns, distributions, accounts of administration, receipts, and miscellaneous probate records. The districts are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - PROBATE RECORDS.

The Connecticut State Library's index to these records for 1641 to 1948 is also at the Family History Library (FHL films 166000-66). This is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - PROBATE RECORDS - INDEXES.

You can obtain copies of other records from the local probate district offices. Many of the records of these local offices have also been microfilmed and are at the Family History Library. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT, [COUNTY], [TOWN], - PROBATE RECORDS. From the Hartford District, for example, the library has records for the years 1649 to 1917 on 52 microfilms.

Other published records are in *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut* (see the "Public Records" section of this outline).

PUBLIC RECORDS

Many early General Assembly acts, petitions, Council of Safety journals, and other documents relating to probates, land grants, and military service are in:

The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut (1636-1776). 15 vols. Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1850-90. (FHL book 974.6 N2c; films 908423-29; fiche 6051120.)

The Public Records of the State of Connecticut 1776-1792. 7 vols. Hartford: Lockwood & Brainard, 1894-1948. (FHL books 974.6 N2ct vols. 1-3; film 944114-15 vols. 1-7.)

TAXATION

The Family History Library has some tax records for the state. These are included in the town records (see the "Town Records" section of this outline). Also see Holbrook's *Connecticut 1670 Census* (described in the "Census" section of this outline).

TOWN RECORDS

In New England the town clerk is the principal record keeper on the local level. The earliest records are called proprietors' records.

Town records may contain births, marriages, deaths, burials, cemetery records, appointments, earmarks, estrays (stray animals), freemens' oaths (men eligible to vote), land records, mortgages, name changes, care of the poor, school records, surveys, tax lists, town meeting minutes, voter registrations, and "warning outs" (of town).

Town records generally begin with the founding of the town and are kept to the present. Many of the original town records are in the town clerks' offices. Some are at the Connecticut State Library. An excellent inventory of Connecticut local records is Nelson P. Mead, "Public Archives of Connecticut: County, Probate, and Local Records," in *Annual*

Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1906, vol. 2, pp. 53-127 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1908; FHL book 973 C4ah; film 896557 item 2).

The Family History Library has microfilms of many Connecticut town records from the creation of the town to the early 1920s.

VITAL RECORDS

Town Records

Birth, marriage, and death records were kept by each town clerk. These are described further in the "Town Records" section of this outline. Many of the births and marriages recorded in the town records have been extracted and are listed in the International Genealogical Index™ (IGI) at the Family History Library and Family History Centers.

State Records

State registration of vital statistics began in 1897 and was generally complied with by 1915. The Family History Library has not obtained these records. For copies of state records, you can contact:

Department of Public Health
Vital Records Section
410 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06105
Telephone: 860-509-8000

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 340-308 11 VRS
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

The current fees for this service are listed in *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993; FHL book 973 V24wv). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many Family History Centers. You can also contact the Vital Records Section (address given above) for current information.

State your relationship to the individual you want information about and the reason you want the information.

Birth records are considered confidential and can only be searched by (1) the individual, his mother, or father; (2) an attorney; or (3) a member of a genealogical society in Connecticut. You may wish to write to the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc., for help in searching birth records. There will be a fee for this service.

Delayed registrations of births were kept by the town clerk and have the same restrictions as other vital records.

Other Sources

There are several collections and other sources which contain vital records:

Barbour Collection. This collection consists of abstracts of town, church, and other original records from the earliest time to the 1850s. Most towns are included. The index is incomplete, however, and is known to contain errors. The collection is on 98 microfilms at the Family History Library (beginning with FHL film 002887), and the births are indexed in the IGI.

Charles R. Hale Collection. This collection includes newspaper notices of marriages and deaths and cemetery inscriptions. The Family History Library has this collection on 360 rolls of film (see the "Cemeteries" section of this outline).

Bowman Collection. This is a card index to Connecticut vital records in Massachusetts, 1800 to 1900 (FHL films 002884-885).

Clarence Torrey Collection. This includes New England marriage records prior to 1700. It is at the New England Historic Genealogical Society and also on microfilm at the Family History Library (FHL films 929494-500). A published index of this collection is Clarence Almon Torrey, *New England Marriages Prior to 1700* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985; FHL book 974 V2t; film 1320548 item 14). A supplement was published in 1991 (FHL book 974 V2t supp).

Index to the Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin, Vols 1-8. This is an index at the Connecticut State Library and is on microfilm at the Family History Library (FHL film 002886.) It indexes the names found in the *Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin* (Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society, 1934-; FHL book 974.6 H25c).

International Genealogical Index. This indexes many of the births and marriages recorded in the town records. It is available at the Family History Library and Family History Centers.

Divorce Records

Divorce proceedings are usually kept by the clerk of the superior court where the divorce was granted. The Connecticut State Library has some early divorce records. The Family History Library does not have copies of many divorce records.

FOR FURTHER READING

For more detailed information about research and records of Connecticut, see:

Crandall, Ralph J. ed. *Genealogical Research in New England*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1984. (FHL book 974 D27gr.)

Kemp, Thomas J. *Connecticut Researcher's Handbook*. Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1981. (FHL book 974.6 D23k.) This book contains a detailed list of available sources.

Lindberg, Marcia Wiswall, ed. *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*. 2nd ed. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1993. (FHL book 974 D27g 1985; fiche 6051401 has the 1981 edition.) This is an excellent guide to the location of public records.

Sperry, Kip. *Connecticut Sources for Family Historians and Genealogists*. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1980. (FHL book 974.6 D23s.) This is a general handbook and helpful guide to research strategies, archives, and published sources.

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

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